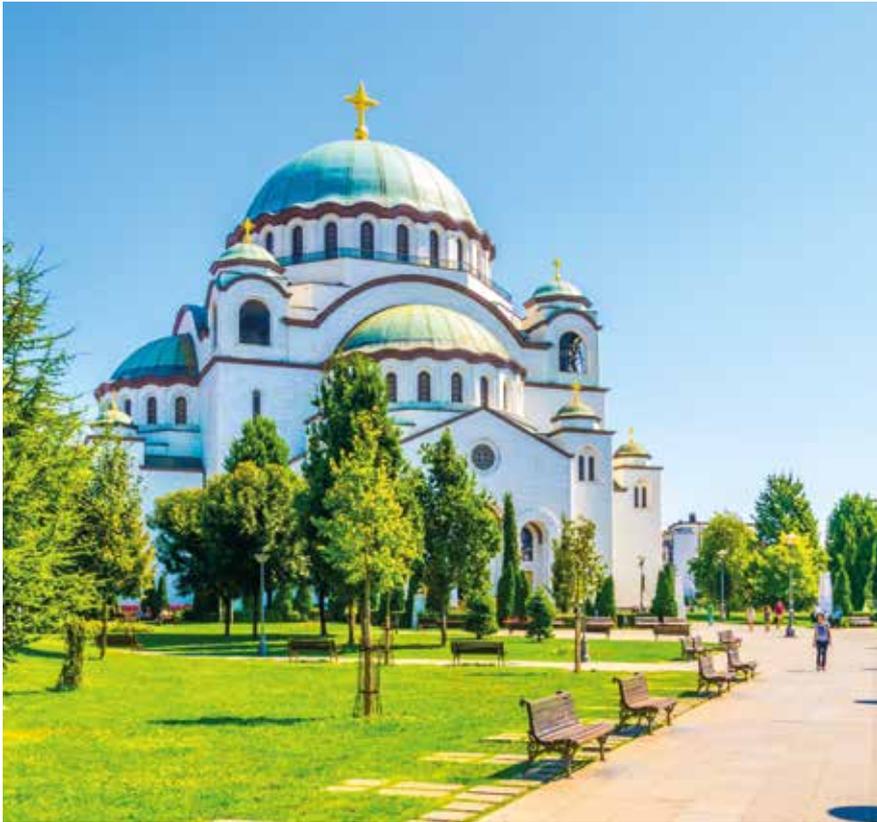


SPLENDOURS OF SERBIA

A seven night escorted tour exploring the scenic wonders
& history of Serbia

17th to 24th May & 13th to 20th September 2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA



Saint Sava Cathedral, Belgrade



Drvengrad



Vineyard, Topola

Journey to the heart of the Balkans on this new escorted tour to discover Serbia, one of Europe's lesser visited countries. The Republic of Serbia re-emerged as an independent state in 2006 following Montenegro's vote for independence and has much to offer visitors, from bustling cities and historic towns to spectacular mountain scenery. We will explore a wealth of interesting sites including 13th century monasteries, beautiful wineries and a historic heritage railway and over the course of a week we will discover many of Serbia's hidden treasures.



Beginning in the capital Belgrade, we will see the symbolic fortress before heading south where rolling hills give way to the stunning Dinaric Alps. From the mountain resort town of Zlatibor explore traditional wooden villages, learn about forgotten rural crafts and enjoy a journey on the Sargan Eight heritage railway through the magnificent alpine scenery. Our journey will continue to the ancient city of Nis, now a cosmopolitan university town where we will have time to explore the old alleyways and cobbled streets and see the ruins of Mediana, a Roman villa built for Constantine the Great. As we return to Belgrade, a highlight will surely be our visit to Felix Romuliana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site of Roman palaces and temples, and the National Museum Zajecar, home to many of the artefacts.

The itinerary will be well-paced so that, when not enjoying the guided tours or exploring independently, there will be ample time to relax and appreciate the tranquillity of these wonderful settings, partaking in a gentler style of tourism that suits Serbia so well. As well as enjoying the local food and splendid wines of the region, our departures in late spring and early autumn will show the beautiful countryside at its best.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Belgrade, Serbia. Fly by scheduled flight to Belgrade. On arrival transfer to the Hilton Belgrade Hotel for an overnight stay. Meet for dinner this evening at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2 Belgrade & Zlatibor. Located at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, the capital of Serbia is one of the oldest settlements in Europe and known as the "White City" for its large fortress which sits on a white ridge above the two rivers. After breakfast at the hotel, join a guided walking tour of the city. See the impressive fortress and Kalemegdan Park with its views of the rivers, Saint Sava Temple and the House of Flowers, the resting place of former Yugoslavian President Josip Tito. Following the guided tour, journey south to the town of Topola where we will enjoy lunch and a wine tasting at the Aleksandrovic winery. This afternoon, visit the hilltop St George's Church in Oplenac, founded by King Peter I of Serbia, its interior is adorned with beautiful Italian Murano glass mosaics. Continue to the mountain resort town of Zlatibor where we will check in to the Hotel Mona for a three night stay. Meet for dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Zlatibor & Drvengrad. After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Mokra Gora where we will board the scenic narrow-gauge Sargan Eight heritage railway for a train ride to Sargan-Vitasi. Once part of a line that connected Belgrade to Dubrovnik on the Adriatic Coast, this restored section of the railway winds through the picturesque mountain scenery through a series of tunnels and viaducts. Continue to the village of Drvengrad, which translates as "Timber Town". Built as a film set by Serbian director Emir Kusturica, it features traditional log-cabin style



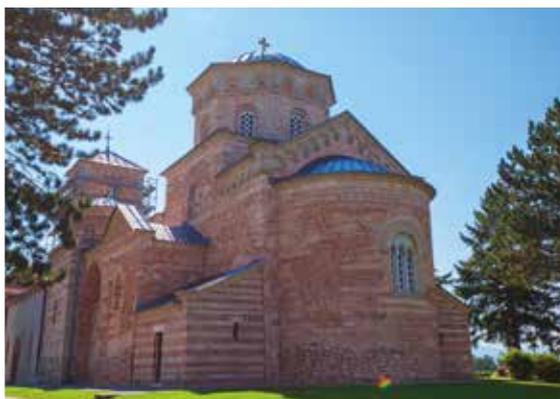
Belgrade



Rock formations, Devil's Town



Kalemegdan Fortress



Zica Monastery

architecture including a church dedicated to Saint Sava, an art gallery and a library. Here we will have time to explore the village and savour the beautiful mountain scenery before enjoying a local lunch. Return to our hotel in Zlatibor where the rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Meet for dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Sirogojno & Ljubis. This morning travel to the village of Sirogojno, featuring the traditional wooden architecture of the region and an open-air museum where we will learn about the almost forgotten crafts and trades that were a feature of rural life in late 19th century Serbia. Continue to the small village of Ljubis where we will enjoy a local lunch before returning to the hotel for a relaxing afternoon or take some time to further explore the mountain resort of Zlatibor. Meet for dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Kraljevo & Nis. After breakfast this morning, check out of the hotel and journey to the town of Kraljevo where we will find the early 13th century Zica Monastery. Founded by the first Serbian archbishop, Saint Sava, and built between 1208 and 1230, it was here that the first

King of Serbia, Stefan the First-Crowned, had his coronation. Torn down and rebuilt several times during Ottoman rule, discover the history of the building during a guided tour. After the tour, enjoy lunch and a wine tasting at a local vineyard before continuing our journey to Nis. Check in to the Hotel Ambassador for our two night stay. Following some free time, meet for dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Devil's Town. Located on the slopes of Mount Radan, Djavolja Varos, or Devil's Town is an unusual rock formation featuring hundreds of towering soil figures, carved over many centuries by erosion from the highly acidic local waters, and topped by stone blocks. During our visit this morning we will discover this intriguing site and learn about the many myths and legends that surround it. After lunch at a local winery, return to Nis and enjoy a guided panoramic tour of the city's highlights. See the Ottoman-era Fortress and Mediana, the remains of a Roman villa built for Constantine the Great and destroyed by Attila the Hun's army in 442 AD. There will also be time to wander through the city's old urban quarter. Dinner will be served at the hotel this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Gamzigrad. Check out of our hotel after breakfast and enjoy a scenic drive north to the town of Gamzigrad. Here we will visit Felix Romuliana, a UNESCO World Heritage Listed complex of ancient Roman palaces and temples built by Emperor Galerius in 298 AD and named after his mother Romana. On a guided tour we will discover the remains of this once luxurious, imperial palace, before continuing to the National Museum in Zajecar. It is here we can admire many of the archaeological findings from the palace, including preserved mosaics and a marble bust of Galerius. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue the journey back to Belgrade where we check in to the Hilton Belgrade Hotel for an overnight stay. After some free time to relax, meet for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Belgrade to London. After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin: £3295
Single: £3795



Felix Romuliana

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Seven nights hotel accommodation • Meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • Wine or beer with lunch & dinner • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Excursions as specified with local guide • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.
Not Included: Travel Insurance.
Group Size: We are restricting the group size to just 25 participants.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

For our escorted tour of Serbia we have selected some of the finest accommodations available and will be staying at the following properties:



Hilton Belgrade

Hilton Belgrade – Two nights

This contemporary, modern hotel built in 2018 is ideally located in the Vracar district of central Belgrade with many major sites and museums within walking distance. All 242 air-conditioned rooms feature 24-hour room service, kettle, hairdryer, television and complimentary Wi-Fi. The Two Kings Restaurant on the ground floor serves breakfast, as well as local cuisine for lunch and dinner. A rooftop cocktail bar and restaurant offer fine views of the city. The extensive Spa and Fitness Centre includes a sauna, steam room and indoor pool.



Hotel Mona

Hotel Mona, Zlatibor – Three nights

Centrally located in the mountain resort town of Zlatibor, Hotel Mona features 120 comfortable air-conditioned rooms and suites, all including a safe, hairdryer, television and complimentary Wi-Fi. Recently refurbished in 2020, the hotel offers two restaurants serving local and international cuisine, a bar and an on-site Spa with indoor swimming pool. The town's central lake and the many bars and restaurants are all within easy walking distance of the hotel.



Hotel Ambassador

Hotel Ambassador, Nis – Two nights

Situated in the heart of Nis adjacent to the main square, the city centre with bars and restaurants is just a short walk away. Renovated in 2019, this landmark hotel features 69 modern air-conditioned rooms that include 24-hour room service, tea station and espresso coffee machine, television and complimentary Wi-Fi. The hotel features an international restaurant, lobby bar and an on-site spa with sauna and fitness centre.



Old Belgrade from the river Sava



NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Zlatibor.